

# VHEADLINES



A quarterly Newsletter of the Virginia Hunter Education Association

## Letter from the President

Spring Greetings to all Virginia Hunter Education Association Members!

After a long and colder winter I hope everyone is ready for spring. It will soon be spring turkey season. They are gobbling and strutting now.

We are starting our spring classes. This year I am involved in four classes over the next month and I know many of you have classes planned.

There are two important issues the Board of Directors is actively working to resolve. The first is a demand by DGIF for a Memo of Understanding that they are requiring. There are several questions that need to be clarified concerning what hours and miles will be recorded for instructors who work hunts, safety booths and other activities. In the past instructors have been credited but now DGIF is refusing to give credit. The second issue concerns insurance coverage for instructors supporting hunts and training events that the association has been leading. I will keep you informed of these as we get answers.

The hunter education course changed last year and as many of you will soon learn, there are other changes that have occurred. Remember the important thing is the kids and the new hunters that come through our classes and the looks on their faces when they see us later and tell us of the successes in the field.

We recently lost Carter Lewis, a tree stand safety team member. He truly appreciated our help and financial support during his struggles with his wife's illness. His family named the association as the recipient of his memorial contributions. Let's not forget our fellow instructors in their time of need. Crystal Weidman and I were honored to serve as pall bearers at his funeral.

I hope to see you soon and I hope you have a great year,

Vernie

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## A Message from the VP

During the past deer season 242,734 deer were reported killed by deer hunters in Virginia. This total included 106,230 antlered bucks, 20,082 button bucks, 116,304 does (48%), and 118 "unknown" deer. The fall 2013 deer kill total was up 13% from the 215,241 deer reported killed last fall. It is also slightly above the last ten-year average of 232,600 (up 4%).

Archers, not including crossbow hunters, killed 15,649 deer. The bow kill comprised 6% of the total deer kill. Crossbows resulted in a deer kill of 11,999, or 5% of the total deer kill. Muzzleloader hunters killed 53,649 deer, or 22% of the total deer kill. Nearly 186,500 deer (77%) were checked using the Department's telephone and Internet checking systems. The youth apprentice deer hunting day in September resulted in a deer kill of 2,682, a 36% increase over last year's kill of 1,977 during the youth deer hunting day. This year was the first year where apprentice hunters could also participate on the youth day.

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## A Message from the VP

(continued from Page 1)

Total deer kill levels were up across all physiographic regions including Tidewater, Southern Piedmont, Northern Piedmont, Southern Mountains, and Northern Mountains. Ninety of 97 deer management units (93%) had an increased deer kill total in 2013 over fall 2012. The 13% increase in the deer kill could possibly be related to a broad statewide hard mast failure. Data from previous years in Virginia indicates that when oak acorns are lacking, the deer kill tends to increase.

The Department's primary deer management effort over the past five to 10 years has been to increase the female deer kill over much of the state, especially on private lands. Female deer kill numbers have been at record levels for the past eight consecutive deer seasons. These high and sustained female deer kill levels are intended to eventually lead to a decrease in the statewide deer herd and a decline in total deer kill numbers.\*

Even though Virginia deer hunters were very successful this year as you can see by the numbers above, unfortunately we did experience fatalities in the field this past year. Please take the time in your Hunter Education classes to highlight a couple of areas in particular:

1. Place extra emphasis on treestand and safety harness classes in particular "Suspension Trauma." If you're not familiar with suspension trauma and its affect go on-line and type in "Suspension Trauma: A Lethal Cascade of Events" by Dr. Norman Woods, dated 11 June 2012. Print it out and use it in your classes. There are way too many hunters out there using safety harnesses with the false impression that the harness will save you no matter how long you're suspended. This is just simply not true.
2. Additionally, stress "Zones of Fire" and "identifying your target and beyond" in your firearms handling portion of the class. Two fatalities could have very well been prevented by adhering to these two safety rules.

Instructors make an impact take the time to be well informed for your classes and let's make 2014 a safer hunting season.

Hunt hard and hunt safe,  
Mike

\* Whitetail deer harvest summary data and information obtained from the Department of Game and Inland fisheries web site (Feb 2014).

## Legislation Updates

The most recent Virginia General Assembly session has yielded the following bills that are sure to have an impact on Virginia's hunters and our hunter education community. On Wednesday, March 5, the following three bills were signed into law by Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe:

House Bill 127: Allows persons to hunt big game with muzzleloading pistols of a caliber of .45 or greater where and in those seasons when the use of muzzleloading rifles is permitted.

House Bill 715: Establishes a new combined license for persons hunting with a bow and arrow or a crossbow.

House Bill 1237: Allows Sunday hunting on private lands with written permission from the owner while still prohibiting hunting within 200 yards of a house of worship, the hunting of deer with dogs and the hunting of bear. HB 1237's Senate companion, Senate Bill 154, is expected to be enacted soon. (Effective July 1, 2014)

On the Governor's desk awaiting signature is the following:

HB307: Hunter safety education; after-school programs for students in grades 7 through 12. Introduced by: L. Scott Lingamfelter  
SUMMARY AS INTRODUCED:  
After-school hunter safety education programs for students in grades seven through 12. Permits local school boards to provide after-school hunter safety education programs for students in the school division in grades seven through 12. Students are required to bear the cost of participation. The bill also requires local school boards that provide such programs to display information on the programs in each school and distribute information to the parents of each student in the school division in grades seven through 12. The bill requires the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to establish a uniform curriculum for such programs and requires each program to be taught by a hunter safety instructor certified by the Department.

To follow these or any other bills visit Virginia's Legislative Information system at <http://lis.virginia.gov/>

## In Tribute



**Carter F. Lewis, Sr.                      Region 2**  
**March 3, 1941 – February 25, 2014**

Carter F. Lewis, Sr., age 72, of Freeman, Va. passed away February 25, 2014. He is preceded in death by his wife, Rena Anne Parker Lewis and his son, Carter F. Lewis, Jr. He is survived by his children, James L. Lewis and wife Connie, John W. Lewis and wife Linda, and Jane Lewis Brown; six grandchildren; four great grandchildren; and a sister, Delorese Stallings and husband Jimmy. Carter was a volunteer Hunter Education Instructor and Certified Treestand Safety Instructor for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

He became an instructor on 9/21/1987 and earned Master rank on 4/7/1993. He volunteered 2,741 hours and certified 2,207 students.

Contributions to a memorial scholarship in Carter's name may be sent to Dianne Cook, Treasurer, Virginia Hunter Education Association, 7184 Dryburg Road, Scottsburg, VA 24589. Funeral services were held on Saturday, March 1.

To ensure continued delivery of **vHEADLINES** contact editor Wendy Hyde at [vheadlines@gmail.com](mailto:vheadlines@gmail.com) with corrections to your e-mail address.

## Hunter Skills Weekends



This year's first Hunter Skills Weekend is coming up on May 2-4. Remember to promote this in your Hunter Education classes and post a flyer in public places (guns shops, sporting goods stores, etc.). Ask the store manager for permission to post a flyer (available on the Holiday Lake site at [www.holidaylake4h.com](http://www.holidaylake4h.com)). Spaces are still available.

Class offerings include:

- Bow Hunting (Basic and Advanced)
- Muzzleloading Basics
- Rifle Basics
- Pistol Basics
- Shotgun Basics
- ~~Skeet~~ FULL
- Trail Cameras
- Game Management and Food Plots
- Recovery of Wounded Game
- Wilderness Survival
- Bow Fishing Basics
- Wild Game Cooking
- Survival
- Small Game Hunting Skills
- Upland Game Bird Shooting Skills
- Turkey Hunting Skills
- Deer Hunting Skills
- Predator Hunting
- Tree Stand Safety
- Hunter Education Course

Together we can make these events a success!

# Board Bulletins

# Treasurer's Report

By Dianne Cook, Treasurer

## VHEA Officers:

President	Vernie Kennedy vern_k@msn.com
Vice President	Mike Norkus bowhantinmike@comcast.net
Treasurer	Dianne Cook harborfest93@yahoo.com
Secretary	Ed Crebbs ed.crebbs.1949@gmail.com
Regional Directors:	
Region 1	Henry McBurney h-smcurney@charter.net
Region 2	George "Spud" Almond galmond@jejamerson.com
Region 3	Earnest Wohlford ewohlford@centurylink.net
Region 4	Jason Miller treedblackbear@yahoo.com
Region 5	Jesse Ebron jebtron@sms.com

- ★ Assistants are needed in Regions 2, 3 and 4. If you are interested in helping please contact the Regional Director.
- ★ Topics or issues to be added to the next Board Meeting's agenda must be submitted through the Regional Directors.
- ★ All events sponsored or associated with the VHEA must be reviewed and approved by either a Regional Director or the Board of Directors. If you have an idea or need approval for an event **start by contacting your Regional Director.**

## Next General Membership Meeting :

Friday, March 28 at 7:00 pm  
Rachel F. Lawson Family Dining Center  
Holiday Lake 4-H Educational Center  
Appomattox, VA

<b>Account – Checking balance as of 03/10/14</b>	<b>\$12,714.52</b>
Roanoke HE Judy Bergloff Memorial	\$ 135.00
Bedford County Hunt	\$ 150.00
John Dunne's Hunt	\$ 1,027.86
HEC	0
HSW	0
Bedford Co. HE- Milan Ashbrenner Memorial	\$ 221.82
Carter Lewis Memorial Scholarship	\$ 495.00
<b>Total allocated funds</b>	<b>\$ 2,029.86</b>
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$10,684.84</b>
<b>Unpaid Bills</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Petty Cash</b>	<b>\$ 80.00</b>

## Membership Information

Annual memberships begin on January 1. To renew or sign up for a new membership:

1. Go to [VAHEA.org](http://VAHEA.org), print the membership form and mail to the address printed at the bottom along with your check, or
2. See the Secretary or Treasurer after the General Membership Meeting on Friday, March 28 to complete the enrollment process.

Membership options and costs are:

Regular (1-year) -	\$ 20.00
Associate -	\$ 15.00
Life -	\$150.00

**Remember to send in your renewals!**

**Encourage new instructors within your county and region to get connected through a membership in the VHEA!**

# Regional Updates

## Region 1

### Northern Neck Youth Turkey Hunt

The goal of this hunt is to provide safe, ethical and rewarding turkey hunting opportunities for the youth of the Northern Neck area of Virginia. This hunt shall be conducted under tightly controlled and managed circumstances in a safe and ethical manner consistent with all state regulations. Safety is paramount!

**Registration:** Age limit 10 – 15, selected randomly out of Hunter Education classes or awarded. Successful completion of Hunter Education required.

**Date:** Saturday, April 19, 2014

**Location:** Dixieland Hunt Club, Westmoreland County, VA

**Contact:** Huntmaster Rick Wilks, 540-775-4625,  
e-mail: rbwilks@crosslinks.net

**Parties to the hunt:** VDGIF, VHEA, Virginia Deer Hunter's Association, National Wild Turkey Federation

**Special Announcements:**

1. All parents/guardians will sign a liability and publicity waiver prior to their children being allowed to hunt.
2. There will be a safety brief prior to the hunt that all must attend. After the hunt a turkey shoot and hunting seminar will be conducted.
3. The hunt will be conducted "2 deep" with all instructor/guides being Hunter Education Instructors, DGIF personnel or qualified personnel from sponsoring organizations. The observer (parent/guardian/mentor) shall remain in sight of the hunter/guide at all times. The instructor/guide has the final authority while hunting and in the blind – NO Exceptions!
4. This hunt will be a spring turkey hunt conducted in accordance with all DGIF rules/regulations/laws.
5. Shotguns only; all hunters are strongly encouraged to pattern their gun on a turkey target before the hunt to ensure they know their effective range.
6. Hunting will be conducted at various sites as selected by the guides.
7. A full breakfast and a lunch will be provided.
8. No alcoholic beverages will be permitted on the farm nor consumed during the hunt.

**Volunteers needed:** If you'd like to volunteer to help with calling, setup, etc., contact Rick Wilks (contact info. above).

### New Kent Forestry Center Youth Turkey Hunt

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual VHEA/DOF/DGIF/BSA spring turkey hunt is set for Saturday April 19<sup>th</sup> at the New Kent Forest Center. The hunt can accommodate up to twelve hunters so twelve volunteer Hunter Ed Instructors who are willing to mentor a novice/youth hunter will be needed. The goal of this event is to provide safe, ethical and rewarding hunting opportunities for youths 12 years of age and older including Venturing Scouts from The Boy Scouts of America. This is an opportunity for select youths to hunt bearded wild turkeys from assigned stands, blinds, and/or clearly defined areas.

**Registration:** Closed - this event is for Boy and Girl Scouts of the Colonial Virginia and Heart of Virginia Councils.

**Date:** Saturday, April 19, 2014

**Location:** New Kent Forestry Center, 11301 Pocahontas Trail, Providence Forge, VA 13140

**Contacts:** Dennis "Denny" Newhouse, Huntmaster, BSA Youth Hunt Coordinator, E-mail: [dnewhouse6@cox.net](mailto:dnewhouse6@cox.net), cell #: 757-503-0865 AND Henry McBurney, Huntmaster and VHEA Coordinator, E-mail: [h-smcburney@charter.net](mailto:h-smcburney@charter.net), cell #: 757-897-9681

**Special Announcements:**

1. Prior to hunting the youth hunter must have turned in the completed VHEA Liability Waiver form.
2. All volunteers must have completed the Scout "Youth Protection Training" offered on line at <http://myscouting.scouting.org>. This is an on-line training course that takes 20 to 30 minutes. The certificate will be kept on file with the Boy Scouts of America, Colonial Council. Volunteers shall print out the completed certificate and bring the large copy to Denny Newhouse or Diana Delgado. This Scout Youth Protection Training is good for a two year period so those who completed it last year for the New Kent BSA event will not have to re-take it this year.

All Youth Hunters must log in (upon arrival) and out (prior to departure) of the New Kent Forestry Center hunter log book. The instructor/guide has the final authority while hunting and in the blind – NO Exceptions!

**Volunteers needed:** If you'd like to volunteer to help with calling, set-up, etc. contact either person listed above. Volunteers will have to be fully licensed and come prepared with decoys, pop-up blinds or blind building materials, turkey calls & all the "stuff" needed for turkey hunting.

# Regional Updates

## Region 2

Nothing submitted for Region 2.

## Region 3

Nothing submitted for Region 3.

## Region 4

Nothing submitted for Region 4.

## Region 5

Hello Region 5 members,

As we make it through this cold winter, I'm looking forward to some warmer weather! The VHEA set up a table at the Heritage Church in Woodbridge, VA. We played a slide show of the Hunter Skills Weekend. If any member would like to get a copy of the slide show please contact me and I'll make sure you get a copy.

Take care and stay safe.

Jesse Ebron



Look for the  
"Virginia Hunter Education Association"  
on

**facebook**

And



Us!

## Holiday Lake Hunter Education Events Schedule 2014

March 28-30	Advanced Training
May 2-4	Hunter Skills Weekend
May 16-18	Youth Hunter Ed Challenge
June 27-29	Advanced Training
July 25-27	Basic Instructor Workshop
August 22-24	Hunter Skills Weekend
September 19-21	Advanced Training

## This Just In.....

- ✦ The Board of Directors entered into a Memorandum of Understanding between the Association and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries at the most recent Board Meeting on March 16, 2014.
- ✦ Congratulations to Chauncey Herring and Lee Turner who both qualify to receive the 5,000 Hour Award!

# In Our Sights

By Wendy Hyde

## VHEA Life Member – John Vanover

In the Bible, Romans 8:28 declares, “And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them. (NLT)” John Vanover’s story is a testament to this - he survived a turkey hunting incident and has turned that experience into something positive as a Hunter Education instructor.

Growing up on a small tobacco farm in rural Clintwood, VA, his recreational opportunities were limited. After tending to the crops, gardens, animals, retrieving water and getting in wood and coal he was always ready to go hunting or fishing. John’s first hunting experiences were by himself and he learned all on his own. He recalls, “At the young age of 10 I worked around the neighboring farms that summer and earned enough money to buy myself a single shot 16 gauge Winchester model 37 shotgun. I harvested my first squirrel that fell out of a big old Hickory tree. That was the beginning of my love of hunting and the great outdoors. “

He graduated from Clintwood High School then attended Pikeville College in Pikeville, KY and worked in the mines during the summer. After graduating with an Associate Degree in Mining Technology he worked as a foreman in a coal mine. The hazardous job caused a back injury which resulted in five surgeries and eventually lead to “retirement” as a disabled miner. Divorced with no children of his own, he enjoys being an uncle. He has been able to share hunting experiences with two of his nephews and he has taken one nephew on youth hunts.

John shares, “Sometime our love and respect for nature comes from the people that surround us and take the time to mentor us in the better things of life.” He feels fortunate to have met people along the way that helped him learn more about hunting. His uncle Otto Kendrick, a Dickenson County Game Warden, had a strong influence on him. John was fascinated by Otto’s enthusiasm and efforts in helping with the repopulation of deer and turkey. John started hunting both species when the population increased in the 60’s and 70’s. Since then turkey hunting has always been his passion.

Turkey hunting has also provided John with one of his greatest life challenges. On December 7, 1998, he was hunting alone using a turkey call. Another hunter stalked the sound and mistook John’s calls for a bird, accidentally shooting him from 67 feet away. The pellets injured him in the head and chest. The shooter

left him and told the first person he found – a preacher who knew John and was the first responder to reach him. He dragged him to the nearest road where the rescue squad got him out. John says, “Head and brain injury is a long recovery process.” The impact was immeasurable and he feels blessed to have a supportive family who helped care for him. John states, “After being injured in my accident, it has been a long, personal, and very difficult struggle for me to get to the point of being able to fire a gun again and eventually make the transition of going back into the woods to hunt.”



Several years after the incident CPO’s George Steele, Tim Hayes, and Deputy Jack Ratliff encouraged him to become an instructor. He is now a Master Instructor and has been teaching in Region 3 since 2002. He became a Boating Safety instructor in 2009.

His teaching focuses on turkey hunting, conservation and wildlife identification. John also helps with the archery team at the annual Youth Hunter Education Challenge and at Kids Fishing Day at the John W. Flannagan Dam. John became a life member of VHEA because he felt it would make a stronger organization.

Actively “practicing what he preaches”, John maintains a food plot for the Jefferson National Forest as well as a ½ mile bird watching walking trail at the John W. Flannagan Reservoir. In 2009 his efforts were recognized by the NWTf when he was inducted into the Virginia Wild Turkey Conservationist Hall of Fame. He is a blood donor and recently reached his personal goal of donating his 100th pint. He volunteers at the annual Remote Area Medical event in Wise, VA, where free health care is provided to the uninsured and under insured. He picks up trash along 5.2 miles of country roads he adopted. He is a member of the Flemington Freewill Baptist Church.

He feels the most rewarding part of teaching is being able to share his experiences and knowledge with new hunters and appreciates what he learns from other instructors and students. He declares, “I hope to increase awareness about hunting safety by passing on the knowledge that I have of the outdoors to future hunters. My goal as an instructor is for the students to leave the classroom having the knowledge to have a safe, memorable experience in all their outdoor activities that will last a lifetime.” John Vanover firmly believes hunting is a safe sport.